

**VENTURA COUNTY**

**Site name:** Anacapa Island State Marine Reserve

**Year established:** 2003

**Approximate Area:** 11.7 nm<sup>2</sup>

**Approximate Shoreline length:** 3.3 nm

**Depth range (feet):** 0 to 600

**Habitat types:** Protected rocky shoreline interspersed with gravel beaches. Rocky habitat in intertidal area, broken by occasional patches of coarse sand, extends offshore to about 40 feet deep. There are numerous emergent rocks which provide roosting sites for seabirds. With the exception of the Anacapa Natural Area (now incorporated into the SMR), rocky subtidal reefs are dominated by urchins and brittle stars. Within the previously designated Natural Area is a lush kelp forest and a diverse assemblage of associated species. Patches of surfgrass grow on rocks in the subtidal area throughout the SMR, particularly in protected inlets. At about 60 feet, the continental shelf extends to low relief rubble and compacted sand. A large boulder field extends from about 80 to 100 feet. Muddy sloping terrain occurs near "Rickett's Rock".

**Surrounding habitat types:** Habitats are similar to those described in Anacapa SMCA below. Habitats on the south side of Anacapa include larger amounts of hard substrate in the deeper regions.

**Summary of existing regulations:** No take is allowed.

**Primary objectives:** A state marine reserve by definition may achieve one or more of the following goals:

1. Protect or restore rare, threatened or endangered native plants, animals, or habitats in marine areas;
2. Protect or restore outstanding, representative, or imperiled marine species, communities, habitats, and ecosystems;
3. Protect or restore diverse marine gene pools;
4. Contribute to the understanding and management of marine resources and ecosystems by providing the opportunity for scientific research in outstanding, representative, or imperiled marine habitats or ecosystems.

**Existing Enforcement:** Included as part of normal Department of Fish and Game marine patrol activities for this general area based on available patrol resources and level of fishery activity in the area. Channel Islands MPAs have been given a high priority for enforcement. A new, 54 foot, patrol vessel and several smaller vessels have been dedicated to Island patrols. National Park island rangers are present on the island.

**Baseline and ongoing monitoring and research studies:** See Page 51 for Channel Islands Monitoring Efforts.

**Basic Evaluation:** This is a recently established marine protected area which also incorporates the only area within the Channel Islands (Anacapa Island Natural Area) which previously was fully protected. Data from the Natural Area suggest that this SMR can benefit greatly from protection in terms of increasing the density, spawning biomass, and individual size of resident fish populations. In addition, refer to above review of baseline and ongoing monitoring and research studies.



**Site name:** Anacapa Island State Marine Conservation Area

**Year established:** 2003

**Approximate Area:** 8.1 nm<sup>2</sup>

**Approximate Shoreline length:** 2.2 nm

**Depth range (feet):** 0 to 600

**Habitat types:** High relief rocky shoreline, increasingly exposed to the west. Eastern portion of shoreline is rocky, descending to broken reef and bolder fields at depths of about 80 feet. Western portion of shoreline is also rocky, descending rapidly to a steep muddy slope. Nearshore rocky habitats support patchy populations of giant kelp and surfgrass. A steep rocky reef occurs off the western tip of the island. The SMCA encompasses one of only two brown pelican breeding and fledging areas in North America.

**Surrounding habitat types:** See Anacapa SMR habitat description for habitat types to the east and south.

**Summary of existing regulations:** No take of living, geological, or cultural resources is allowed except for the recreational take of spiny lobster spiny lobster (*Panulirus interruptus*) and pelagic finfish<sup>1</sup> and the commercial take of spiny lobster.

No net or trap may be used in waters less than 20 feet deep off the Anacapa Islands commonly referred to as Anacapa Island.

A brown pelican fledgling area is designated from the mean high tide mark seaward to a water depth of 20 fathoms (120 feet) on the north side of West Anacapa Island between a line extending 000° True off Portuguese Rock (34° 00.91' N. lat. 119° 25.26' W. long.) to a line extending 000° True off the western edge of Frenchy's Cove (34° 00.4' N. lat. 119° 24.6' W. long.), a distance of approximately 4,000 feet. No person except department employees or employees of the National Park in the performance of their official duties shall enter this area during the period January 1 to October 31.

<sup>1</sup>Pelagic Finfish are defined as: northern anchovy (*Engraulis mordax*), barracudas (*Sphyraena sp.*), billfishes\*\* (family Istiophoridae), dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*), Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*), jack mackerel (*Trachurus symmetricus*), Pacific mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*), salmon (*Oncorhynchus spp.*), Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*), blue shark (*Prionace glauca*), salmon shark (*Lamna ditropis*), shortfin mako shark (*Isurus oxyrinchus*), thresher sharks (*Alopias spp.*), swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*), tunas (family Scombridae), and yellowtail (*Seriola lalandi*). \*\*Marlin is not allowed for commercial take.

**Primary objectives:** A state marine conservation area by definition may achieve one or more of the following goals:

1. Protect or restore rare, threatened or endangered native plants, animals, or habitats in marine areas;
2. Protect or restore outstanding, representative, or imperiled marine species, communities, habitats, and ecosystems;
3. Protect or restore diverse marine gene pools;
4. Contribute to the understanding and management of marine resources and ecosystems by providing the opportunity for scientific research in outstanding, representative, or imperiled marine habitats or ecosystems;

5. Preserve outstanding or unique geological features;
6. Provide for sustainable living marine resource harvest.

**Existing Enforcement:** Included as part of normal Department of Fish and Game marine patrol activities for this general area based on available patrol resources and level of fishery activity in the area. Channel Islands MPAs have been given a high priority for enforcement. A new, 54 foot, patrol vessel and several smaller vessels have been dedicated to Island patrols. National Park island rangers are present on the island.

**Baseline and ongoing monitoring and research studies:** See Page 51 for Channel Islands Monitoring Efforts.

**Basic Evaluation:** This is a recently established marine protected area. Refer to above review of baseline and ongoing monitoring and research studies.

**Site name:** Big Sycamore Canyon State Marine Reserve

**Year established:** 1994

**Approximate Area:** 1.67 nm<sup>2</sup>

**Approximate Shoreline length:** 1.84 nm

**Approximate Depth range (feet):** 30 to 120

**Habitat types:** Sandy bottom 100%

**Surrounding habitat types:** Mostly sandy areas. Kelp forest and reef habitat at Deer Canyon to the east. Mugu Submarine Canyon to the west.

**Summary of existing regulations:** No take is allowed

**Primary objectives:** To satisfy requirements of the Marine Resources Protection Act of 1990 the Fish and Game Commission was required to establish four ecological reserves along the mainland coast. The Big Sycamore Canyon State Marine Reserve (originally named the Big Sycamore Marine Resources Protection Act Ecological Reserve) was one of the reserves established pursuant to the Act. The Act specified that the specific purpose of these reserves was "to provide for scientific research related to the management and enhancement of marine resources"

**Existing Enforcement:** Included as part of normal Department of Fish and Game marine patrol activities for this general area based on available patrol resources and level of fishery activity in the area. State Park rangers and lifeguards provide added on-site enforcement presence.

**Baseline and ongoing monitoring and research studies:** Habitat mapping surveys (sonar) conducted as part of MERRP research projects.

**Basic Evaluation:** Habitat here is almost entirely sand with no reef structure. As such, this site does not contain the large diversity of species and habitats that are present in many other MPAs. Despite these limitations, it is the only MPA which provides protection to an extensive area of this type of wide spread habitat in southern California. Halibut, a highly sought after species, are protected here, as well as a potential spawning area for market squid.

**Unpublished references related to effectiveness of this MPA:** 28, 206

**Unpublished references related to use of this MPA as a research tool:** 28, 206